

THE GUARDIAN

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At Veteran Resources find back copies



next month
Our feature story will be
About an
IRAQ Re-
turnee from
MADERA!
3d ARC

The Mexican War

The Regiment was organized "for establishing military stations on route to Oregon", and it was under orders to proceed on it's mission at the earliest practical date. However, the Mexican War intervened and the Regiment found itself diverted to participate in the invasion of Mexico. During the Mexican War, the Regiment distinguished itself in six campaigns.

The Mounted Rifles lost most of their horses in a terrible storm during the voyage across the Gulf of Mexico, causing them to fight as infantry during most of the Mexican War. They landed at Vera Cruz on 9 March 1847 and participated in the fighting there until 28 March. On 17 and 18 April, the Regiment found itself in fierce hand-to-hand combat at Cerro Gordo. After refitting at Puebla, the Riflemen fought at Contreras and Churubusco on 19 and 20 August. It was at Contreras that General Scott made the speech from which the Regiment took its Accolade (see Appendix G for details).



"Brave Rifles-Veterans" by Don Frechtel

Veterans Service Office

Madera Veterans Office
321 W. Yosemite Ave.
Madera Ca 93637
Suite 101

Hours

Mon., Through Fri. 8-5
Dennis Blessing, Service Officer
(559) 675-7766

Madera Transportation
(888) 826-2838 ext 6424
from Merced (**72 Hr. Notice**)



THE HISTORY, CUSTOMS, AND TRADITIONS OF THE 3d ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

To the Troopers and families of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment:

Bravery, strength, determination, good intentions, flexibility, knowledge, and impartiality: these were the characteristics that you displayed through partnership with the 3d Iraqi Army Division during combat operations in Western Ninewa Province. Each and every day your wise operational and successful leadership was the decisive factor in us achieving victory. Again, we recognize clearly the main reason for victory was your leadership. These necessary qualities are the same for any person, army, or nation that is looking for victory, and they were the reason why the Brave Rifles and faith in their goal along with their principles, high morals, and focus on their mission, coupled with perfect logistics support, impartiality, and sincere leadership made them the right unit for this mission. The Regiment's ability to plan, conduct excellent coordination, supervise and choose the right decisive actions along with their great leadership helped us to develop individual Soldier skills and increase the capability of the division. It is said that piles of construction materials alone cannot build a house and a group of people cannot be considered an army. The Regiment's leadership and devotion to duty helped us form an army. Its actions have resulted in strong friendships that will last a lifetime. The Troopers' behavior is an example of wise leadership, which is the tree and the reputation they will leave behind is the shadow of this tree. So I offer my heartfelt thanks, appreciation, and respect to you for your sacrifices. The troopers of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment will disappear from our eyes but remain in our hearts. We send our greetings to you and wish you a well deserved reunion with your families.

God Bless MAJOR GEN. KHORSHEED SALEEM AL-DOSEKEY
3RD IA INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3, IRAQI RETURNEE

CITY OF TALL ‘AFAR

In Name of God the Compassionate and Merciful

To the Courageous Men and Women of the 3^d Armored Cavalry Regiment, who have changed the city of Tall’ Afar from a ghost town, in which terrorists spread death and destruction, to a secure city flourishing with life.

To the lion-hearts who liberated our city from the grasp of terrorists who were beheading men, women and children in the streets for many months.

To those who spread smiles on the faces of our children, and gave us restored hope, through their personal sacrifice and brave fighting, and gave new life to the city after hopelessness darkened our days, and stole our confidence in our ability to reestablish our city.

Our city was the main base of operations for Abu Mousab Al Zarqawi. The city was completely held hostage in the hands of his henchmen. Our schools, governmental services, businesses and offices were closed. Our streets were silent, and no one dared to walk them. Our people were barricaded in their homes out of fear; death awaited them around every corner. Terrorists occupied and controlled the only hospital in the city. Their savagery reached such a level that they stuffed the corpses of children with explosives and tossed them into the streets in order to kill grieving parents attempting to retrieve the bodies of their young. This was the situation of our city until God prepared and delivered unto them the courageous soldiers of the 3^d Armored Cavalry Regiment, who liberated this city, ridding it of Zarqawi’s followers after harsh fighting, killing many terrorists, and forcing the remaining butchers to flee the city like rats to the surrounding areas, where the bravery of other 3^d ACR soldiers in Sinjar, Rabiah, Zumar and Avgani finally destroyed them.

I have met many soldiers of the 3^d Armored Cavalry Regiment; they are not only courageous men and women, but avenging angels sent by The God Himself to fight the evil of terrorism.

The leaders of this Regiment; COL McMaster, COL Armstrong, LTC Hickey, LTC Gibson, and LTC Reilly embody courage, strength, vision and wisdom. Officers and soldiers alike bristle with the confidence and character of knights in a bygone era. The mission they have accomplished, by means of a unique military operation, stands among the finest military feats to date in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and truly deserves to be studied in military science. This military operation was clean, with little collateral damage, despite the ferocity of the enemy. With the skill and precision of surgeons they dealt with the terrorist cancers in the city without causing unnecessary damage.

God bless this brave Regiment; God bless the families who dedicated these brave men and women. From the bottom of our hearts we thank the families. They have given us something we will never forget. To the families of those who have given their holy blood for our land, we all bow to you in reverence and to the

souls of your loved ones. Their sacrifice was not in vain. They are not dead, but alive, and their souls hovering around us every second of every minute. They will never be forgotten for giving their precious lives. They have sacrificed that which is most valuable. We see them in the smile of every child, and in every flower growing in this land. Let America, their families, and the world be proud of their sacrifice for humanity and life.

Finally, no matter how much I write or speak about this brave Regiment, I haven’t the words to describe the courage of its officers and soldiers. I pray to God to grant happiness and health to these legendary heroes and their brave families.

NAJIM ABDULLAH ABID AL-JIBOURI
Mayor of Tall ‘Afar, Ninewa, Iraq



VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS



**VFW Commander
George Bloch
Post 1981
200 South G Street
Madera Ca 93639
(559) 661-9038**

GUARDIAN IN-PUT, MAR-06

May 1st of each year is designated as **Loyalty Day** by Congressional Act 85-529 of 1958. Its' passage was one of the brightest victories in the long, proud history of Americanism achievements by the VFW. It was the culmination of a long struggle to set aside a special day on which Americans could pointedly counteract the Communists, who were using May Day for their annual hate demonstrations against our nation.

Since its' passage, Loyalty Day has been a resounding success and serves as that *specific* occasion when all American citizens should publicly reaffirm their complete loyalty to America by demonstrating against individuals who advocate the overthrow of our government. The reason we have Loyalty Day is to continually encourage loyal Americans to *speak out*. It is a day upon which patriotic citizens should hold parades, Flag ceremonies, public meetings, school programs and other Americanism activities throughout the nation. We need a tremendous resurgence of good, old-fashioned, red-white and blue patriotism, on a daily basis, if we are to continue to endure as a free people.

We observe Loyalty Day, therefore, to remind ourselves and others that there is no substitute for loyalty and we observe it to pledge ourselves to maintain a free society in which loyalty is respected and encouraged.

Although May 1st is yet two months away, it is important that we renew our awareness of Loyalty Day. In next month's GUARDIAN, suggestions will be offered as to what personal actions each of us can do to increase that awareness.

OBLIGATION

In the presence of Almighty God, I do, of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise and declare that:

I will bear true allegiance to the Constitution of the United States of America and I will always be loyal thereto.

I do further solemnly promise and declare that I will comply with the Congressional Charter, bylaws and Ritual of this order and I will always be loyal thereto. I will never wrong or defraud this organization—nor a member thereof nor permit any wrong to be done to either if in my power to prevent it.

I will never propose for membership any person not eligible nor one whom I know to be unworthy.

I will never make known to anyone not authorized to receive it any of the work of this order.

Should my affiliation with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States cease in any way I will consider this pledge as binding outside of the order as though I had remained a member of same.

All this I promise and pledge upon the honor of a true comrade and a citizen of our great republic.

Applicant's Signature

I have investigated the character and campaign medal service of the applicant and hereby endorse him/her as eligible and worthy of membership in the VFW.

Signed _____

Date _____ Member of Post # _____

CERTIFICATION

Admission Fee paid \$ _____ Dues paid \$ _____

Date _____ LM Fee paid \$ _____

(See Sec. 104 bylaws)

The Investigating Committee has performed its duties and recommends ☐ Approval ☐ Rejection.

(Signatures of Committee below)

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

Applicant approved _____ Obligated _____

Date _____ Date _____

The annual dues of each member includes a year's subscription to the VFW Magazine, official publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Each applicant, upon acceptance, will be so notified and furnished with an official dues receipt showing membership for the year for which dues or Life Membership fees have been paid.



LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Attained Age	Fee
Through 30\$245
31-40235
41-50215
51-60195
61-70165
71-80125
81+85

Any applicant whose 31st, 41st, 51st, 61st, 71st or 81st birthday will occur after the date of application and on or before December 31st of the current calendar year, shall pay only the fee that would be required on his next birthday.

AMARRA — The Iraqi Army in Samarra has been working closely with 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division Soldiers, also known as Rakkasans, in training designed to bolster the proficiency of the new, reconstituted army.

The regimen consists of weapons training, map reading, general orders and basic first aid that is taught to the officers and noncommissioned officers in the military. The higher ranking officials will then teach the classes to other Soldiers.

"It empowers their leaders and gives them the experience and knowledge to control their Soldiers," said Capt. Christopher Swint, the assistant Military Transition Training team chief, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

After the classroom and hands-on training, the Iraqi Army Soldiers' level of understanding is tested with patrols in the streets of Iraq. The Soldiers search homes and arrest detainees in a quest to eliminate anti-Iraqi forces.

"The word independent is important - it means they do this without Coalition force help," Swint said.

Every unit is evaluated once a month. Categories tested include training level, sustainability, logistics ability, communication, leadership and operations. The evaluation for each unit can vary slightly since the testing is devised in conjunction with the Iraqi Army's commander.

"We don't force a particular way of doing things because in the end it's not our Army," said Swint. "So we evaluate the end-state, not the procedures."

Ultimately, the Iraqi government has to accept the unit as ready to take over operations based on the evaluations.

Regardless of how well the unit does on evaluations, IA Soldiers struggle to prove themselves to their communities. IA Soldiers have to wear civilian clothes while at home because they often become targets of anti-Iraqi forces.

"Soldiers in America are heroes, but that pride is not established here yet," said Swint. "But it will be."

MITT team Soldiers are working to help the Iraqi Army gain that history and respect as Iraq's heroes. The team here in Samarra feels that the training is a step in that direction for the Iraqi Army.

"They perform guard duty well and their base is safe. They operate a machine gun properly, and the enemy learns that they are lethal," said Swint. "These basic skills hold a small amount of worth alone, but combined they create a force to be reckoned with."

Iraqi Army Sgt. Maj. Hatem Ashmn Kahlef, right, instructs two infantry Soldiers in battle drill move-



FROM THE FRONT



AMERICAN FORCES INFORMATION SERVICE **NEWS ARTICLES**

Iraqi Army, U.S. Forces Detain 106, Discover Weapons Caches

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 2006 – Iraqi and U.S. forces conducted raids on two targets in Iraq's Diyala province and a raid west of Baghdad that netted a total of 106 individuals and a weapons cache, Multinational Force Iraq officials said.

The 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, advised by U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers, conducted assaults on two targets Feb. 12 in Diyala. The troops detained 102 persons of interest - 25 were on the Iraqi security forces "most wanted" list. They also killed two insurgents and discovered a large weapons cache.

The combined Iraqi and U.S. forces cordon-and-search missions were designed to capture key insurgents and disrupt multiple insurgent cell operations. The targets were chosen based on intelligence that specific individuals wanted for planning and facilitating insurgent activities would be in the targets, officials said.

While beginning a search of the first target house, an Iraqi army assault team encountered four armed insurgents and came under heavy fire. Though the team was forced to withdraw outside of the house for cover, one of the team's sergeants stayed in the house, killing one insurgent and wounding two more before falling back to regroup with his team.

Those three insurgents were taken into custody. The two wounded detainees received immediate medical treatment, though one later died while en route to receive additional medical care.

A weapons cache discovered during the operations included a rocket, artillery and mortar rounds, rocket-propelled grenades and an RPG launcher, AK-47 assault rifles, and a collection of IED-making materials, including electrical wire and fuses.

One Iraqi army soldier was wounded by enemy small-arms fire during the operation. Iraqi and U.S. medical personnel treated him on the scene.

On Feb. 11, west of Baghdad, the Iraqi army's 1st Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Division conducted its first full battalion-sized operation, netting four suspected insurgents.

The operation, advised by U.S. special operations forces, was a cordon-and-search mission designed to track insurgents and sweep for weapons caches.

None of the combined forces were killed or injured during the operation.

(Compiled from Multinational Force Iraq news releases.)

FROM THE FRONT

02/07/2006

Combat Patrol

Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment maneuver their M1 Abrams tank during a combat patrol in Tall Afar, Iraq, Feb. 2, 2006. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon



02/06/2006

Mosul Security

U.S. Army Spc. Nick Merrick provides overwatch security during a patrol in Mosul, Iraq, Feb. 5, 2006. Merrick is

FROM THE FRONT



02/06/2006

Firing Techniques

Capt. LeeAnn Roberts instructs Iraqi trainees and a coalition soldier on proper firing techniques at the Al Kasik Training Base firing range, Iraq, Jan. 30, 2006. She is the first female coalition military assistance training team instructor assigned to the base, and the only female out of 8,000 assigned personnel. U.S. Air Force photo



02/03/2006

Ali Air Base

U.S. Army Spc. Brandon Vaughan scans the interior perimeter of Ali Air Base, Iraq, Feb. 1, 2006. Vaughan is part of a quick reaction force working with Fox Unit, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. U.S. Air Force photo by

FROM THE FRONT



02/01/2006

Rooftop Watch

U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Sam E. Smithson and Lance Cpl. James Nankervis, both Marines with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, provide watch on a rooftop during Operation Red Bull II in Barwanah, Iraq, Jan. 18, 2006. The Marines along with Iraqi Army soldiers cleared houses and searched for weapons caches to rid the area of insurgent operations. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Adam C. Schnell

02/01/2006

Making Decisions

U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Sam E. Smithson and Lance Cpl. James Nankervis, both Marines with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, provide watch on a rooftop during Operation Red Bull II in Barwanah, Iraq, Jan. 18, 2006. The Marines along with Iraqi Army soldiers cleared houses and searched for weapons caches to rid the area of insurgent operations. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Adam C. Schnell



FROM THE FRONT



02/14/2006

Break Time

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Scott McCollum, with the 10th Mountain Division, gives his dog Rocky a drink of water during a cordon and search operation in the outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 7, 2006. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Desiree N. Palacios



02/13/2006

Muddy Waters

U.S. Army soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 506th Brigade Troops Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, maneuver their Humvees through the mud during a convoy patrol in the Zafaraniyah District of Iraq, Feb. 4, 2006. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Teddy Wade



THE REP REPORT



Compensation Rate Table

Basic Rates - 10%-100% Combined Degree Only

Dependent Status	Disability Rating									
	10%	20%	30%	40 %	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100 %
Veteran Alone	\$112	\$218	\$337	\$485	\$690	\$837	\$1,099	\$1,277	\$1,436	\$2,393
Veteran & Spouse	112	218	377	539	757	954	1193	1385	1557	2528
Veteran & Spouse & 1 Child	112	218	406	578	806	1012	1262	1463	1645	2626
Veteran & No Spouse & 1 Child	112	218	364	521	735	927	1162	1349	1517	2484
Veteran & Spouse & No Children & 1 Parent	112	218	409	582	811	1019	1269	1472	1655	2637
Veteran & Spouse & 1 Child & 1 Parent	112	218	438	621	860	1077	1338	1550	1743	2735
Veteran & Spouse & No Children & 2 Parents	112	218	441	625	865	1084	1345	1559	1753	2746
Veteran & Spouse & 1 Child & 2 Parents	112	218	470	664	914	1142	1414	1637	1841	2844
Veteran & No Spouse & No Children & 1 Parent	112	218	369	528	744	938	1175	1364	1534	2502
Veteran & No Spouse & 1 Child & 1 Parent	112	218	396	564	789	992	1238	1436	1615	2593
Veteran & No Spouse & No Children & 2 Parents	112	218	401	571	798	1003	1251	1451	1632	2611
Veteran & No Spouse & 1 Child & 2 Parents	112	218	428	607	843	1057	1314	1523	1713	2702

California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS FOR VETERANS

Contact: Jerry Jones
Jaime Arteaga
Legislation and Public Affairs
916-653-2192

March 7, 2006

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY RESERVES

CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY RESERVES SEEKS VETERANS TO FILL MILITARY POSITIONS HERE IN CALIFORNIA.

Sacramento – The California Military Department, California State Military Reserve, is currently seeking veterans to fill their volunteer ranks at units across California. The California State Military Reserve (SMR) is a reserve military organization exclusively for the State of California. The SMR has no federal mission and cannot be called to federal service or sent overseas. Usually volunteers are not deployed outside California, though some 77 SMR troops were activated for the Katrina response in the first out of state deployment for the service.

The job of the SMR is to provide support and training to the California National Guard (CNG) and can be called to active duty in the event of an earthquake or other state emergency by the Governor. When the Guard is called to federal service, soldiers in the SMR take on their responsibilities here at home. With so much of the CNG deployed, the SMR is taking on more state missions than ever before. This is an excellent opportunity for veterans to serve in uniform again, but without the risk of an overseas deployment. At military installations across the state, SMR soldiers are serving as base security, running State HQ, and other State Active Duty positions.

There are currently 19 SMR units across California, and more are planned. During WWII, the ranks of the SMR (then called the State Guard Reserve), swelled to 72,000, performing all state military missions here at home while the CNG was deployed. Currently there are 600 men and women serving in the CA SMR, the desire is to grow to 3,000. Whatever your rank, MOS, branch, or length of service, the California State Military Reserve needs you. Even if you received a medical discharge with a high VA disability rating.

To qualify for service in the SMR, applicants must be 18-63 years of age (with some waivers to 70), be a resident of California and free of felony convictions. Prior service members come in at their previous rank. There is no physical training or PT test. SMR soldiers must be able to physically perform their duties and disability waivers are available. There is no enlistment contract, SMR soldiers are free to leave on 30 days written request.

Veterans interested in serving in the SMR are encouraged to visit their website at www.calguard.ca.gov/casmr. For more information contact the SMR State Recruiting Officer, Major (CA) Rick Lalor, at richard.lalor1@us.army.mil or 562 795-2898.



Department of
Veterans Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 273-6000
www.va.gov

News Release

VA Adds Nearly 2 Million Records to Online Gravesite Locator

WASHINGTON - The burial locations of more than 5 million veterans for whom the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has provided grave markers are now available on the Internet, as well as the information inscribed on the markers.

Online since April 2004, the nationwide gravesite locator (<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>) helps veterans' families, former comrades-in-arms and others find the graves of veterans.

VA recently added 1.9 million records for veterans buried primarily in private cemeteries to its database. The gravesite locator previously carried records on 3 million veterans buried in VA national cemeteries since the Civil War, and in state veterans cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery since 1999.

"The expansion of this innovative program continues VA's commitment to using Internet technology to fulfill the important mission of memorializing our nation's veterans," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "By adding records to our online database, VA also helps families research their genealogy and ensures that future generations of Americans will be able to honor these veterans for their service."

The new records date from January 1997, the earliest time for which electronic records exist. The information comes from applications made for these veterans' headstones or markers. Beyond the 5 million records now available, VA continues to add approximately 1,000 new records to the database each day.

Online Grave Locator 2/2/2

Last year, VA furnished nearly 369,000 inscribed headstones and markers for veterans' graves worldwide.

Internet users only need to provide the last name of the deceased veteran or dependent. Typically, the information available includes name, birth and death dates, rank, branch of service and the address and phone number of the cemetery.

Veterans whose discharges are other than dishonorable, their spouses and dependent children may be buried in a national cemetery, regardless of where they live. No advance reservations are made. VA provides perpetual care, as well as a headstone or marker, a burial flag and a memorial certificate to survivors.

Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from a VA Web site at www.cem.va.gov or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.





California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS FOR VETERANS

Contact: Jerry Jones
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March 10, 2006

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

THERE IS STILL TIME TO CONTRIBUTE TO VETERANS FUND VIA 2005 STATE INCOME TAX RETURNS

The California Department of Veterans Affairs reminds California taxpayers that donating to the Veterans Quality of Life Fund is EZ. Simply state the amount you wish to donate on **Line 65** of the California Resident Income Tax 540 2EZ or 540A forms.

The ability to donate to the Veterans Quality of Life Fund via state income tax forms become available to Californians when AB 357 by Assembly member Shirley Horton was signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger last year. Monies donated to the Veterans Quality of Life Fund will be distributed to California's three veterans homes in Barstow, Chula Vista, and Yountville for use in improving the morale, welfare and recreation of veterans.

So remember, during this tax season remember the contributions of our Nation's veterans and donate to the Veterans Quality of Life Fund via your California income tax returns. Just keep in mind "**Line 65**" because donating is truly EZ.

Note to editors: This News For Veterans and previous CDVA News For Veterans are available on our website at www.cdva.ca.gov and via e-mail from jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov

NEW GOVERNMENT CENTER

FROM 2/20 AND 2/28 2006



FROM 3/10/2006



SEE MORE AT
MADERA-COUNTY.COM
NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

